

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-19 Cancelled.

20. (New) A portable screen assembly comprising:

a casing having an opening extending in a longitudinal direction in an upper surface thereof, said casing including first and second case members that extend in the longitudinal direction and are separable from each other;

a spring-biased roll rotatably mounted in said casing;

a screen wound around said spring-biased roll in a storage position, said screen being extendable from said opening for use;

a top bar secured to one end of said screen, said top bar configured as a cover for closing said opening in the storage position;

an extendable column for supporting said screen in an extended state, said column having one end supported at a center portion of a side face of said casing; and

a locking mechanism for fixing said top bar to said casing, said locking mechanism comprising an engaging portion disposed on said top bar and an engaged portion disposed on said casing, wherein said engaging portion and said engaged portion are adapted to be engaged in the storage position.

21. (New) The portable screen assembly according to claim 20, wherein the end of said column is pivotally supported at the center portion of the side face of said casing such that said column can be pivoted into a standing position for holding said screen in the extended state.

22. (New) The portable screen assembly according to claim 20, wherein a first end of said first case member and a first end of said second case member are adapted to be engaged, and a second end of said first case member and a second end of said second case member are spaced from each other to form said opening.

23. **(New)** The portable screen assembly according to claim 20, further comprising a handle portion disposed at a center portion of said top bar and a hook portion disposed at a front end of said column, wherein said handle portion is adapted to be fastened to said hook portion.

24. **(New)** The portable screen assembly according to claim 23, wherein said hook portion is horizontally rotatably attached to the front end of said column such that, when said column is moved into a storage position, said hook portion can be rotated so that said column is disposed adjacent to said casing.

25. **(New)** The portable screen assembly according to claim 20, wherein said engaging portion comprises a pair of engaging members disposed on opposing sides of said top bar in a width direction, and said engaged portion comprises a pair of engaged members disposed at opposing sides of said opening so as to be engageable with said pair of engaging members.

26. **(New)** The portable screen assembly according to claim 25, wherein each of said engaging members is rotatably pivotable and comprises a pivotable engaging end adapted to be engaged with one of said engaged members, and a rotatable control portion end which can be rotated to disengage said engaging end from said engaging member.

27. **(New)** The portable screen assembly according to claim 26, wherein said engaging portion includes a spring member that biases said engaging end toward said engaged portion in an engaged state.

28. **(New)** The portable screen assembly according to claim 26, wherein said engaging portion includes a rotatable locking mechanism for preventing said control portions from being rotated in an engaged state.

29. **(New)** The portable screen assembly according to claim 28, wherein said rotatable locking mechanism comprises a base portion and a lock member loosely inserted into said base portion; and said lock member can be rotated between a lock position in which a head of said lock member abuts said control portions to prevent said control portions from being rotated, and a released position in which said control portions can be rotated.

30. **(New)** The portable screen assembly according to claim 20, wherein said column comprises a slide locking mechanism and a plurality of telescopic pipes which are slideable relative to each other, and said slide locking mechanism is adapted to prevent the sliding movement of one of said telescopic pipes to hold said column at a desired height.

31. **(New)** The portable screen assembly according to claim 20, wherein said extendable column comprises:

- a first pipe located at a lower level;

- a second pipe located at an upper level; and

- a first slide locking mechanism comprising:

- a tubular engaged portion comprising one or more through holes formed in said second pipe; and

- a tubular engaging portion attached on an outer circumferential surface of said first pipe, said tubular engaging portion comprising:

- a base portion; and

- a pivotable engaging member comprising a projection portion at one end, and a control portion for controlling said projection portion at the other end, wherein said projection portion is adapted to be engaged with one of said through holes to maintain said second pipe in an extended state, and said control portion can be pressed to disengage said projection portion from said through hole.

32. (New) The portable screen assembly according to claim 31, further comprising a control portion locking mechanism for keeping said control portion in a pressed state, thereby keeping said projection portion disengaged from said through hole.

33. (New) The portable screen assembly according to claim 32, wherein said control portion locking mechanism comprises an engaging groove disposed at said base portion, and an engaging pin disposed on said engaging member such that pressing said control portion causes said engaging pin to engage within said engaging groove.

34. (New) The portable screen assembly according to claim 31, wherein said column further comprises a third pipe located at an uppermost level, and a second slide locking mechanism for locking said third pipe relative to said second pipe, said second slide locking mechanism comprising:
a tubular engaged portion comprising a plurality of through holes formed in said second pipe;
and

a tubular engaging portion disposed on an inner circumferential surface of said third pipe at a rear end thereof, wherein said tubular engaging portion can be selectively engaged and disengaged in one of said through holes in said second pipe.

35. (New) The portable screen assembly according to claim 31, further comprising a projection portion locking mechanism disposed at a front side of said column, said projection portion locking mechanism being adapted to abut said projection portion in a released state and guide said projection portion into engagement with one of said through holes.

36. (New) The portable screen assembly according to claim 31, wherein said tubular engaging portion comprises a spring member that biases said projection portion toward said engaged portion.